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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Reorganization of Communist
Centers in Caucasus

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Two groups of political specialists have arrived in the Caucasus since the beginning of May 1954. The purpose is to reorganize Communist centers which are not at present working in a way satisfactory to Moscow. Worse still, Moscow is getting reports that they represent a permanent danger.
2. One of the groups that have come in to mend matters consists of the following:

Fedor Ratenkin
Misa Zerbentse
Vladimir Ousepov
Kolia Arseniev

Each of these men has three assistants, one being a woman.

3. The second group of reformers consists of:

Vassily Sijvanov
Gregori Roujarkin
Jacob Turbayev
Semion Mikhakov
Lazar Kalinsky
Leonid Tsoulkayev

Everybody in this group has four assistants. The group is to work with the kolkhozes and the syndicates of workers. They are particularly concerned with reorganization of agricultural production.

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4. The arrival of still a third group, to be concerned with inspection of education, is expected.
5. There is no doubt that, in many parts of the Caucasus, Nationalist activity is growing in a disturbing way. Soldiers are deserting to line up with the Nationalists. In the first ten days of May 1954, there were 170 arrests in the regions of Klipare [sic] Sagadi [sic] Paravut [sic] and Derbent. Almost every day there is an attack on some Communist personage. Commissars in these regions have asked for detachments of troops, as night guards for their safety.
6. As examples of anti-Communist activity, one may cite the discovery of a group of resistance on 7 May 54, North of Baku. This group was in touch with the Azerbaijan Independence Committee, of Northern Iran. The leaders were Akif Kalhanov, Haydar Bektasov, Omer Burtjakov. As a further example, may be mentioned a secret arms depot, unearthed at Karatahiner [sic] in the house of a certain Murad Davudov. This included infantry arms, stolen from the army. Murad Davudov made a clean get-away.

Long contacts in the Caucasus region.
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... 4. The arrival